

Crime Hurts Everybody We Can Help.



California Victim Compensation Program



C A L I F O R N I A
V C G C B
Victim Compensation & Government Claims Board
Helping California Crime Victims Since 1965



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Call the VCP at **800.777.9229**
or visit www.victimcompensation.ca.gov
for more information.

What is the Victim Compensation Program?

The Victim Compensation Program (VCP) can help pay bills and expenses that result from certain violent crimes. Victims of crime who have been injured or have been threatened with injury may be eligible for help from the VCP.

Who Qualifies for Victim Compensation?

The VCP can help victims of crimes such as:

- Domestic violence
- Child abuse
- Assault
- Sexual assault
- Molestation
- Homicide
- Robbery
- Drunk driving
- Vehicular manslaughter

The VCP can help victims of crimes that occur in California as well as California residents who become victims while visiting other states or outside the country.

Additionally, people who suffer a monetary loss because of death or injury to a crime victim may also be eligible for compensation.

These “derivative” victims can include:

- Spouses or Domestic Partners
- Children
- Parents
- Legal Guardians
- Brothers
- Sisters
- Grandparents
- Grandchildren





What Expenses Cannot Be Paid By the VCP?

- Any expense not related to the crime
- Any expenses paid by insurance or another source of reimbursement or coverage
- Expenses for lost, stolen or damaged property
- Damages for pain and suffering

There are limits on how much can be paid for each loss. The program cannot pay any expense for a person who is on felony probation, on parole, in jail or in prison.



What Expenses Can the VCP Help Pay?

The VCP may help pay for expenses related to a crime such as:

- Medical and dental treatment
- Mental health services
- Income loss
- Funeral and burial expenses
- Loss of support, for dependents when a victim is killed or disabled because of a crime
- Home or vehicle modifications
- Home security
- Relocation
- Crime scene cleanup
- Childcare services, when a caregiver is killed or disabled because of a crime

How Does a Victim Apply for Compensation?

There are four ways to apply:

- Contact the local Victim Witness Assistance Center. A victim advocate at the center can help victims complete and submit the application. The victim advocate can also help victims learn more about the criminal justice system.
- Call VCP Customer Service at **800.777.9229**
- Download an application at **www.victimcompensation.ca.gov**
- E-mail the VCP at **info@vcgcb.ca.gov**

When Submitting an Application, Remember:

- Include copies of crime reports, bills and receipts with the application.
- Send bills to the insurance company, workers' compensation carrier, or Medi-Cal right away. The VCP corresponds with such providers as needed to verify benefits and coordinate payment of bills.



How Does a Victim Qualify for the VCP?

In addition to being the victim of a qualifying violent crime, applicants must:

- Report the crime to the police, sheriff, child protective services, or some other law enforcement agency.
- Apply to the VCP within a year of the crime occurrence. If the victim is under 18 at the time of the crime, this limit does not apply. Rather, the application must be submitted prior to their 19th birthday.
- Applicants/victims must cooperate with law enforcement during the investigation and prosecution of the crime. A victim cannot have participated in or been involved in committing the crime.
- Applicants/victims must cooperate with the VCP by providing the information needed to review the application.

How Does the VCP Pay Bills?

The VCP verifies that all the bills are related to the crime, applies payment rates, and, in most cases, pays the provider directly.

If the applicant/victim already paid the bill, they should document it with the VCP and the program will reimburse them directly.

If the applicant/victim missed work because they were injured and are applying for wage loss, the VCP will ask for information from their employer. The program will also ask for a disability statement from their healthcare provider. If the applicant/victim is self-employed, the VCP will ask for two years of tax returns.

If the VCP paid the provider and the provider cashed the check, the provider cannot ask the applicant/victim to pay more money toward that bill. If the applicant/victim is asked to pay any money for a bill that the program already paid, they should let their victim advocate know or call VCP Customer Service at **800.777.9229**.

What if Property is Lost or Stolen?

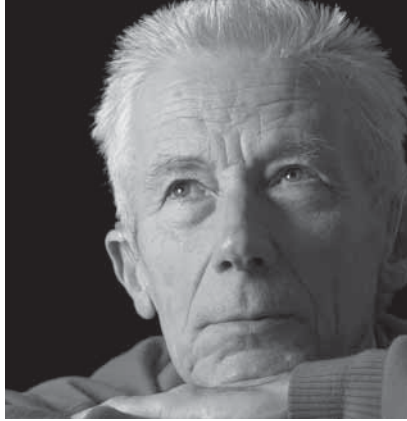
The VCP cannot pay for lost or stolen property.

The VCP can pay for medically necessary items such as wheelchairs, walkers, eyeglasses and dentures that are lost, stolen or broken during the crime, or that become necessary due to the crime.



Can a Victim Get an Emergency Payment?

An emergency award can be obtained in certain situations. Emergency awards are made based on substantial hardship and the immediate need for payment.



How Does a Victim Apply for Compensation for Relocation Expenses?

The VCP can help pay moving expenses – such as first and last month's rent, deposits and temporary lodging – if a victim needs to relocate for their own safety or emotional well-being.

Relocation forms are available at www.victimcompensation.ca.gov. The local victim advocate can assist with this process.



What if an Insurance Company or Other Source Pays for Crime-Related Expenses?

The VCP works with the insurance company to determine how much of the bill qualifies for payment by the VCP. By law, only bills that the insurance company or other sources do not pay can be paid by the VCP.

If the claimant or applicant decides to file a civil suit against someone because of the crime and wins, the claimant or applicant must reimburse the VCP for any expenses it paid.

Victim's Right to Appeal

Claimants have the right to appeal. For more information, please visit our website at www.victimcompensation.ca.gov.

Victim's Constitutional Right to Restitution

Offenders can be required to pay victims for crime-related losses

California victims of crime have a constitutional right to request restitution for crime-related losses from the offender.

If the offender is convicted, the court must issue a restitution order requiring the offender to pay the victim for losses or expenses resulting from the crime. The court can also order the offender to reimburse the VCP for anything it has paid to or on behalf of a victim.

Victims must work with the local district attorney or probation department to request restitution. It's important to keep copies of all losses and expenses. Local victim advocates can assist with requesting restitution and applying for victim compensation.

For more information on restitution, contact a local victim advocate, call VCP Customer Service at **800.777.9229**, or visit the "Victim Compensation" and "Restitution" sections of the VCGCB website, **www.victimcompensation.ca.gov**.



Confidentiality of Claims

All claims filed with the VCP are confidential. Except as required by law, the VCP only discloses a victim or applicant's information with their written permission. If the applicant or victim is a child or incapacitated adult, the written permission must be provided by a parent, guardian or other person legally authorized to represent the applicant or victim.



Good Samaritans

The VCP administers the provisions of California law that provide for compensation to Good Samaritans. Good Samaritans are members of the public who suffer injury or property loss as a result of their efforts to prevent a crime, apprehend a criminal or rescue a person in immediate danger of injury or death.

For details regarding qualifications and on how to apply, contact VCP Customer Service at **800.777.9229**.



Missing Children Reward Program

The Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board administers the Missing Children Reward Program to assist local law enforcement agencies and other parties involved in the identification and recovery of missing children in California. Funds are available to reward persons with up to \$500 for providing information which leads to the location and recovery of a missing child listed in the California Department of Justice Missing Children Registry.

If you would like more information about the Missing Children Reward Program, please call **800.777.9229** or visit the VCGCB website at **www.victimcompensation.ca.gov**.



For more information, contact:
**Victim Compensation and
Government Claims Board**

**P.O. Box 3036
Sacramento, CA 95812-3036**

**800.777.9229
www.victimcompensation.ca.gov
e-mail: info@vcgcb.ca.gov**

**All languages accommodated.
Hearing impaired: Please call the
California Relay Service at 711**

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For Help, Contact Your County Victim Witness Assistance Center:

Alameda	510.272.6180
Alpine	530.694.2971
Amador	209.223.6474
Butte	530.538.7340
Calaveras	209.754.6565
Colusa	530.458.0449
Contra Costa	925.957.8650
Del Norte	707.464.7273
El Dorado	530.621.6414
Fresno	559.488.3425
Glenn	530.934.6510
Humboldt	707.445.7417
Imperial	760.336.3930
Inyo	760.878.0282
Kern	661.868.4535
Kings	559.582.3211 ext. 2640
Lake	707.262.4282
Lassen	530.251.8281
Los Angeles City	213.978.2097

Los Angeles County	800.380.3811
Madera	559.661.1000
Marin	415.499.6450
Mariposa	209.742.7441
Mendocino	707.463.4218
Merced	209.385.7385
Modoc	530.233.3311
Mono	760.924.1710
Monterey	831.755.5072
Napa	707.252.6222
Nevada	530.265.1246
Orange	949.975.0244
Placer	530.889.7021
Plumas	530.283.6285
Riverside	951.955.5450
Sacramento	916.874.5701
San Benito	831.634.1397
San Bernardino	909.387.6540
San Diego	619.531.4041
San Francisco	415.553.9044

San Joaquin	209.468.2500
San Luis Obispo	866.781.5821
San Mateo	650.599.7479
Santa Barbara	805.568.2400
Santa Clara	408.295.2656
Santa Cruz	831.454.2010
Shasta	530.225.5220
Sierra	530.993.4617
Siskiyou	530.842.8229
Solano	707.784.6844
Sonoma	707.565.8250
Stanislaus	209.525.5541
Sutter	530.822.7345
Tehama	530.527.4296
Trinity	530.623.1204
Tulare	559.733.6754
Tuolumne	209.588.5440
Ventura	805.654.3622
Yolo	530.666.8187
Yuba	530.741.6275

Arnold Schwarzenegger

Governor, State of California

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